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SOURCE Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao.

HUNAN AND HUPEH RUSH DIKE-REPAIR WORK

CONTRACT LABOR SPEEDS CONSTRUCTION -- Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 14 Apr 50

Since there was a lack of cadres and training for mass employment on dike work in Hsiang-yin Hsien, Hunan, it was found, after experimentation, that a plan of contracting the work out to groups of the laborers themselves, on a democratic basis, resulted in greatly increased construction, a great decrease in waste, and great simplification of the problems of supervision.

After more than 40 days with 5,000 persons employed under the direct supervision plan, only 45 percent of the quota had been finished and 170,000 more cattles of grain had been issued than the original plan called for. As a result, the authorities called for volunteers to contract for the work. About 2,000 responded. They elected their own unit leaders, agreed to provide their own tools, to arrange for their own food supply, and to meet the required engineering standards.

The workers' leaders carefully computed the requirements of the job, decided to work before daylight and after dark, and half the night in good weather. Each man undertook to carry 50 percent more earth on each trip than they had been carrying before and it was estimated they could thus move 400 to 500 cubic feet of earth per man per day. They engaged a full-time cook to prepare food. A considerable saving of grain and time was thus effected. The elected foreman supervised the actual work, leaving the few available cadres free for over-all supervision.

The result was that 2,000 workers moved 50,000 fang [one fang equals 100 cubic feet] of earth in 18 days, as compared with 110,000 fang moved in over 40 days by 5,000 workers under the government supervision plan. And, there was no waste of grain in payment. The amount of earth moved per man was almost twice what had been moved before. There was much less grumbling and trouble in the distribution of payment. The contract price per fang was the same as the amount previously allowed. Under the contract system each worker earned about 5 catties of rice per day.

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This plan is recommended in areas where cadres are scarce and proper psychological preparation is not possible. The system is wholly democratic, quite unlike the old system of boss contractors where the boss collected a liberal fee from the employer for each man he provided and fleeced the men themselves on every possible occasion.

PUSHES WORK ON YANGTZE DIKES -- Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

Hupei is working against time to complete the dike-repair work before the Yangtze River's seasonal floods inundate various areas along the river. Reports from different localities and also from the Hupei Water Conservation Bureau have revealed that other than work delays caused by rains, repairs on the dikes have been progressing at a very rapid pace. To date, earthwork has been started in 359 places, and completed in 119 places, which is approximately 50 percent of the program. Stone work which has been started in 20 places will be completed in the near future.

Due to the urgency of the earthwork project at Chiang-chia-t'an, which was progressing very slowly, a total of 19,000 civilian workers have concentrated their work on the upper dike and negotiations are being made for assistance from the military.

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